

Hoosier Highways to get Spring Cleaning

Statewide effort to clean up more than 3,000 miles of Indiana roadway begins April 5

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INDIANAPOLIS – Warmer weather means it is time for spring cleaning in the Hoosier State – and Indiana’s highways are no exception! This weekend, the Indiana Department of Correction (DOC), the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), and Adopt-A-Highway groups will kick off a major statewide effort to clean up Indiana’s highways during Trash Bash – from April 5-27, 2008.

“Providing assistance cleaning up Hoosier roadsides is a great way for Indiana offenders to give back to the community,” said Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue. “We’re proud to be a part of the state’s annual Trash Bash clean-up effort.”

For more than a decade, DOC and INDOT crews, along with Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, have joined forces to spring clean every mile of interstate during Trash Bash. Each year, hundreds of tons of trash are collected – sprucing up highways in time for nice weather. In 2007, Department of Correction crews, INDOT workers, and 249 Adopt-A-Highway groups collected more than 34,500 bags of trash from 3,000 miles of state highways and rights-of-way.

“Our INDOT crews are constantly working to keep Indiana’s highways clean – it’s a huge job that costs the state more than \$2 million a year,” said INDOT Commissioner Karl B. Browning. “We’re pleased to partner with the Department of Correction and our hardworking Adopt-A-Highway volunteer groups in our ongoing effort to keep Indiana’s roadsides beautiful. It’s one way we help lessen the financial burden motorists who litter put on taxpayers with their careless actions.”

During Trash Bash 2008, DOC and INDOT are encouraging Hoosiers to help clean up and prevent litter on Indiana’s highways by following these tips:

- Don't Litter: Set a good example for everyone, especially children.
- Be responsible: Carry a litter bag in your car instead of tossing trash out the window
- Put a lid on it: Make sure trash can lids are securely fastened. If you have curbside trash collection, don't put loose trash in boxes or untied bags
- Tie it up: Tie papers in bundles before placing them in a curbside recycling bin.
- Check on it: If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to ensure doors are closed
- Report it: Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage to your local transportation, public works or conservation office.
- Adopt it: If you or your family is involved in a civic group, scouting organization or recreational sports program, encourage the group to adopt a highway. Call (317) 232-5509 or visit www.indot.IN.gov/7008.htm for details

Motorists should be on the lookout for clean-up crews during Trash Bash. When drivers encounter a clean-up crew, they should slow down and remain alert for changing traffic patterns.

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.